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Developing and Printing for
AMATEURS IN SPECIALITY.
38, QUEEN'S ROAD
CENTRAL.

The China Mail

ESTABLISHED 1845

No. 14,842

號三十月三年十一百九千一第


HONGKONG WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1910.

日三十月二年二號宣

PRICE, \$8.00 Per Month.

BUSINESS NOTICE
CHINA MAIL (daily) \$8.00 per month including postage, \$3.00 per month.
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CHINA MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO., LTD. OF SHANGHAI
DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS:
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Lee Yang Se, Esq.
J. H. McMillan, Esq.
O. B. Burtell, Esq.
J. A. Watson, Esq., Managing Director.
A. J. Hughes, Esq., Secretary.
S. B. Neill, F.I.A., Actuary.
A strong British Corporation Registered under Hongkong Ordinances and under the Assurance Companies' Acts, England.
Insurance for sum insured \$1,000,000.00.
Assets \$7,114,490.00.
Income for year 1909 \$3,073,834.81.
Total Security to Policyholders \$7,485,852.81.
Lafferty, Esq., Hongkong, Canton, District Manager.
D. W. Tapp, Esq., Macao and District Secretary.
Alexandra Building, Hongkong.
Hongkong, November 16, 1909. 1424

HONGKONG AND NEW TERRITORIES.

A Local Mission's Activities.

The annual report of the Hongkong and New Territories Evangelical Society for 1909 furnishes in detail particulars of the activities of the Mission in the various centres covered.
In reference to Hongkong it is recorded that, "thanks to the Christian Endeavour Society of Union Church, means have been furnished to employ a Christian worker among the local boat population on the harbour and foreshore. The right man for this service could not, however, be found readily. At length the way seemed open to appoint to the post a preacher of knowledge and experience. This has been accordingly done."

The report states that at the island of Cheung Chau "from among the land and sea folk, to whom the Society's agents have ministered in the Gospel, a few good men and true have been baptised on profession of faith in Christ. Six converts who are always present and non-Christians, varying in numbers from three to thirty, compose the Sunday congregations."

At Tai Wan "the Society's rented building has become the frequent and accustomed meeting place for about 20 or 30 of the villagers, who though not yet avowedly Christians, may be properly classed as 'Inquirers' and these it is the duty and privilege of the preacher to instruct in Christian doctrine and practice. During the year five adults have taken the final step over the line that separates between the old and the new religion and after public baptism their names were duly placed on the roll of the church."

There are also statements of work accomplished at Yui Long, Lan Tau and Tai Po, it being recorded that "the village of Sheung Shui has been the scene of events that recall, in a marked manner, features of early apostolic life. Acceptance of the Gospel by a villager evoked strong opposition which took the form of persecution and entailed suffering for the truth's sake. In this instance there was faithful witness and a good confession which the neighbors would not receive. In due course the convert under trial was baptised with his wife and son."

The financial statement shows a balance in hand of \$819.37, compared with \$388.80 for the previous year.

INTERNAL TREATMENT NOT NECESSARY FOR RHEUMATISM.
FULLY nine out of every ten cases of rheumatism is simply rheumatism of the muscles due to cold or damp, or chronic rheumatism, neither of which require any internal treatment. All that is needed to afford relief is the true application of Chamberlain's Pain Balm. Give it a trial. You are certain to be pleased with the quick relief which it affords. For sale by all chemists and druggists.

Business Notices.
W. S. BAILEY & Co., Ltd.
River Steamers, Tugs, Launches, Barges, Motor Boats.
Castings, Forgings, Roofs and Bridge Work.
SLIPPING AND REPAIRS AT LOWEST RATES.

SALES & AGENCY DEPARTMENT.
Engines, Boilers, Launches, Pumps, Engineer's Fittings and Supplies both New and Second-hand.
PNEUMATIC PLANT FOR SALE, COMPLETE WITH RIVETERS, DRILLS AND HOSE.

W. S. BAILEY & Co., Ltd.
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'SOLIGNUM'
A Perfect Preservative Stain for Wood, Stone and Brickwork. It protects against decay, insects, dry rot, the ravages of insects and vermin (especially white ants) and the action of the weather. 'Solignum' really does what is claimed for it, as may be seen from the testimonials of the Governments of India, the Siam, etc.
In Drums and Barrels of Various Colours.
Prospectus and all information from
SIEMSEN & Co.,
(Machinery Dept.) HONGKONG, SOLE AGENTS.
Hongkong, December 7, 1909. 1519

DIAMONDS AND GEM-SET JEWELLERY
Rings, Brooches, Ear-rings, Pins, Pendants, Hair-combs, Charms, Chains, Links, &c.

Jade Stone and Chinese Made Gold Jewellery
GOLD & SILVER WATCHES, CLOCKS, OPTICAL GOODS.
Repairs of Watches and Jewellery effected by experienced Europeans.

J. ULLMANN & CO.
34, Queen's Road Central Opposite General Post Office.

THE HONGKONG CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.

EASTER HOLIDAYS. SPECIAL CHEAP RATES.

HONGKONG-MACAO LINE.			
FRIDAY, 26th	S.S. 'Sui An' from Hongkong 8 a.m.	from Macao 2 p.m.	2 p.m.
SATURDAY, 27th	S.S. 'Sui Tai' from Hongkong 8 a.m.	from Macao 2 p.m.	2 p.m.
SUNDAY, 28th	S.S. 'Sui Tai' from Hongkong 8 a.m.	from Macao 2 p.m.	2 p.m.
MONDAY, 29th	S.S. 'Sui Tai' from Hongkong 8 a.m.	from Macao 2 p.m.	2 p.m.

FARES.			
Friday and available for return till Monday	1st class	2nd class	3rd class
Saturday	\$5.00	\$2.00	\$1.00
Sunday	\$4.00	\$1.50	\$0.75
Monday	\$3.00	\$1.20	\$0.60

Excursion Rates, \$7.50.
1st Class Return... \$9.00
Single... 1.00
2nd Class Return... 1.00
Single... 0.60
Further particulars may be obtained at the Office of the Company or Messrs T. Cook & Son.

Hongkong, January 1, 1909. J. ARNOLD, Acting Secretary. 12

THEATRE ROYAL.

TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT!
March 23rd.
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

THE NEW NO. 1 BANDMANN OPERA CO.
50 LONDON ARTISTES 50

WEDNESDAY, 23rd March.
'A WALTZ DREAM'
By Special Request.

THURSDAY, 24th.
One and Only
'THE MERRY WIDOW.'

PRICES: \$3, \$2 and \$1.
Plan of Seats now open at MOUTRIE & CO.
Hongkong, March 8, 1909. 413

E. C. WILKS,
M.L. MECH. E. A.M.I.N.A.

LATE OF WILKS & JACK, LD.

CONSULTING ENGINEER, SURVEYOR & VALUER
OF ALL CLASSES

MACHINERY & EFFECTS.
Annual Stocktaking of Engineering and Allied Trades a speciality.

YORK BUILDINGS,
(1st Floor), HONGKONG.

Office Tel. 195. Residence K90.

Tel. Address: WILKESWORK, HONGKONG.
Hongkong, April 14, 1909. 616

NOTICE.

MR. D. MESSUM, of the well-known Firm MESSUM, MENASSE & Co., Sole Agents Diamond Merchants, Antwerp, Vienna and Bombay, is at present in the Colony and staying at the Avon House. He is an expert in diamonds and has brought with him a Large Stock of this Precious Stone. Anyone wishing to purchase at a minimum cost should not lose the opportunity of making a call at Avon House, Room 43, between 11 and 12 in the forenoon and 3 & 4 in the afternoon.
Hongkong, March 18, 1910. 373

NIGHT STEAMER TO CANTON.

New Twin Screw Steamer.
S.S. SAN CHEUNG

Fitted throughout with Electric Light and Fan supplied in all cabins.
(Captain J. McGarry).

Leaves Hongkong for Canton at 9 p.m. on SUNDAY, TUESDAY & THURSDAY.

Leaves Canton for Hongkong at 5.30 p.m. on MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY.

Fare, 1st Class... \$2.50 single passage. Meals... \$1 each.
Servants' passages must be paid for.

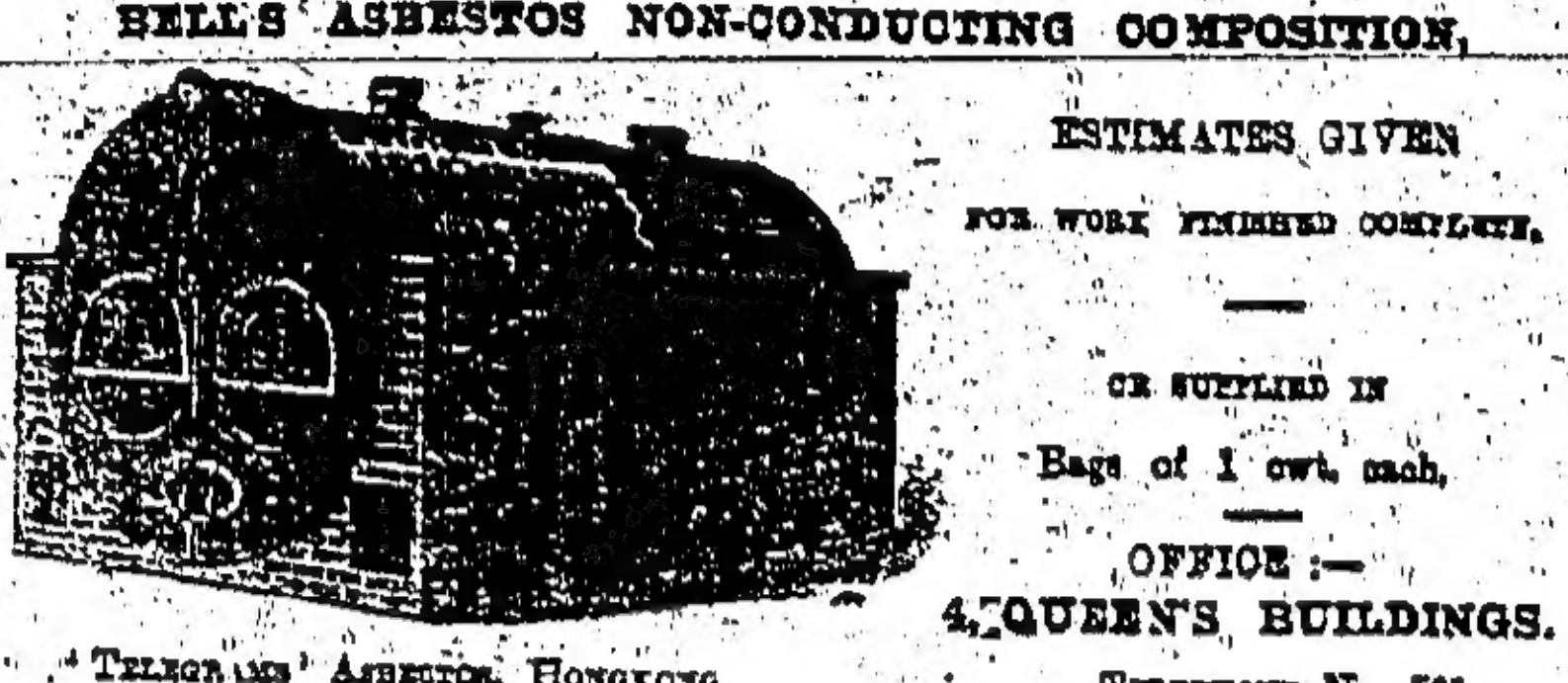
CHEUNG ON STEAMBOAT CO., LD.,
No. 236, Yueh Road Central.
Hongkong, November 12, 1908. 154

THE GRAND CARLTON HOTEL
8 and 10, Ice House Road.

FIRST-CLASS, THE BEST IN EVERY RESPECT.

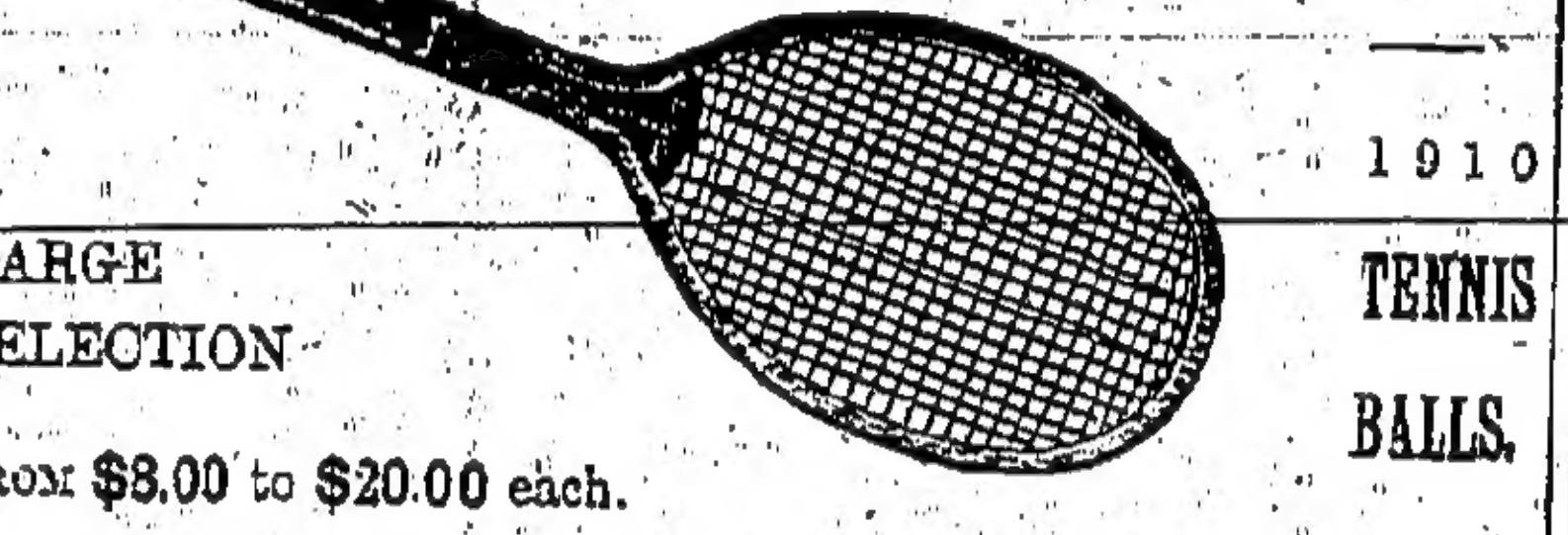
Renowned Cooking. Central for all Theatres, Chief Places of Interest and Fashionable Shopping District.
Moderate Terms.
O. E. OWEN, Proprietor.

Business Notices.
BELL'S ASBESTOS EASTERN AGENCY, LIMITED
SOLE AGENTS FOR BELL'S ASBESTOS CO., LTD. (LONDON)
SAVE FUEL BY COVERING YOUR BOILERS AND STEAMPIPES WITH
BELL'S ASBESTOS NON-CONDUCTING COMPOSITION.
ESTIMATES GIVEN FOR WORK FINISHED COMPLETE.
OR SUPPLIED IN Bags of 1 cwt. each.
OFFICE: 4, QUEEN'S BUILDINGS.
TELEPHONE No. 501.



LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.
TELEPHONE No. 97.

NEW STOCK OF TENNIS RACQUETS
SPECIALLY MADE FOR L. C. & CO., BY
SLAZENGER, RAMSBOTTOM, JACQUES.



LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.
GUARANTEED ABSOLUTELY PURE

O. B. BEER
IS MADE FROM BEST OBTAINABLE MATERIALS AND BY MOST SCIENTIFIC METHODS.
Price \$12.00 Per Case.

THE BEST AND MOST HARMLESS TONIC IS
BOCK BEER
TAKEN WITH YOUR MEALS.

\$14.00 Per Case.
From your dealer, or from the
ORIENTAL BREWERY, LTD.
Depot 55-57, Des Voeux Road.

THE VICTORIA DISPENSARY
(OPPOSITE THE CLOCK TOWER).

FAMILY & DISPENSING-CHEMISTS
IMPORTERS OF WINES AND SPIRITS.

Aerated Water Manufacturers.
PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION.

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ART PHOTOGRAPHER, ICE HOUSE LANE.

SPECIALIST IN ENLARGING AND BROMIDE WORK.
Select Views of Hongkong and South China.
Special Department for Developing and Printing for Amateurs.

CAMERAS FOR HIRE.

1718

THE GRAND CARLTON HOTEL
8 and 10, Ice House Road.

FIRST-CLASS, THE BEST IN EVERY RESPECT.

Renowned Cooking. Central for all Theatres, Chief Places of Interest and Fashionable Shopping District.

Moderate Terms.
O. E. OWEN, Proprietor.

Business Notices.
GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO., LD.
PORTLAND CEMENT

In Casks of 375 lbs. net, \$5.50 per Cask, ex Factory.
In Bags of 50 lbs. net, \$3.45 per Bag, ex Factory.

Shewan, Tomes & Co.,
GENERAL MANAGERS.

FAIRALL & CO
ARE SHOWING

A FINE DISPLAY OF
NEW DRESS LINENS,

ALSO
EMBROIDERIES.

TELEPHONE 644. 7 & 9, PEDDER STREET.

MONDAY,

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

April 4th.

Plan at ROBINSON PIANO Co., Ltd.

Hongkong, March 22, 1910. 364

W. H. Allen, Son & Co., Ltd.

QUEEN'S ENGINEERING WORKS, BEDFORD, ENGLAND

MANUFACTURERS OF—

Allen's High-Speed Open and Enclosed Steam Engines and Continuous Current Dynamos.

Conqueror Surface and Jet-Condensing Plants.

Conqueror Turbine and Centrifugal Pumps.

Allen's Vertical Enclosed Paraffin Oil Engines.

Allen's Fans for Forced or Induced Draught or for Ventilating Purposes.

Allen-Piccard, Pict. Water Turbines.

Allen's Vertical Enclosed Air Compressors.

REPRESENTATIVES IN HONGKONG AND CANTON—

WILLIAM C. JACK & CO., LTD.
14, DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONGKONG.

Boord & Son.

OLD TOM and DRY GIN.

Caldbeck, Macgregor & Co.,
Sole Agents.
Hongkong, March 21, 1910.

Intimations.

G. FALCONER & Co.
WATCH-MAKERS AND JEWELLERS.
HOTEL MANSIONS.

NEW SELECTIONS OF
DIAMOND JEWELLERY AND ENGLISH SILVER WARE
HIGH-CLASS GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES.
LARGE SELECTION OF PRESENTATION PLATE, CUPS, BOWLS, ETC.
FALCONER & Co. are Agents for ROSS'S FAMOUS TELESCOPES AND
BINOCULARS, LORD KELVIN'S NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS,
ADMIRALTY CHARTS AND BOOKS.

SOLE AGENTS FOR THE EMPIRE TYPEWRITER.

WING KEE & CO.,

No. 47, 48 and 49, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL
SHIP-CHANDLERS, SAILMAKERS, PROVISION MERCHANTS, COAL
MERCHANTS, &c., &c., OF FIFTY YEARS STANDING
SHIP CAPTAINS ARE REQUESTED TO GIVE US A TRIAL.
FRANCISCO TSE YAT, General Manager, 1117
Hongkong, August 12, 1908.

ASTOR HOUSE HOTEL

(LATE CONNAUGHT HOTEL).
QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

CENTRALLY situated, up-to-date Hotel. Recently renovated and under entirely
New Management. Large and Comfortable Rooms, Excellent Cuisine, under the
supervision of an experienced French Chef.

PARTICULARS AND RATES on application to **MANAGER.**
L. GAMEAU, Proprietor, **N. BLUMENTHAL**, Manager, 1381
Hongkong, October 9, 1908.

ORIENTAL HOTEL

No. 2, Queen's Road Central.

A THOROUGHLY FIRST-CLASS AND UP-TO-DATE HOTEL.
SITUATED in the most central position. Large and airy Rooms. Hot and Cold
Water Baths. Gas and Electric Light. Cuisine entirely under European Super-
vision. Private Bar and Billiard Rooms. Monthly Rates for Tiffin and Dinner.
Terms moderate.

FREDERICK REICHMANN, Proprietor & Manager,
(late Manager of J. Lyons & Co. (Trocadero) leading Caterers in London and of the
Grand Oriental Hotel, Colombo).
Telephone No. 197. Telegraphic Address "CONVOY," Hongkong.
Hongkong, December 1, 1909. 1540

WHITE ANTS.

AVENARIUS CARBOLINEUM
THE BEST

WOOD PRESERVATIVE.

30 YEARS' SUCCESS

THE ONLY EFFECTIVE AND
LASTING PROTECTION
AGAINST

WHITE ANTS.

GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER TESTIMONIALS.

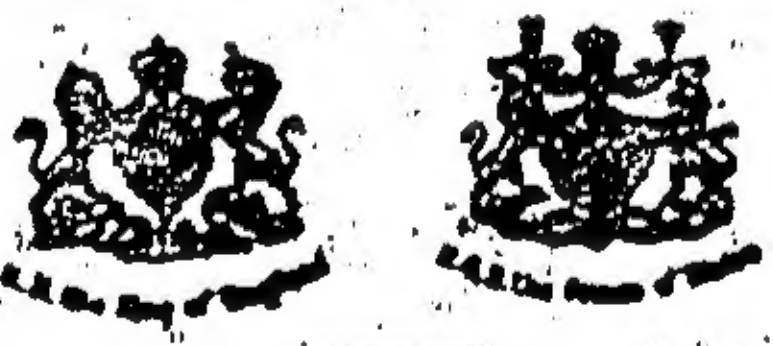
SOLE AGENTS:

MELCHERS & CO.

CHAMPAGNE
THE LEADING BRAND

G.H. MUMM & Co.
REIMS

BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT TO



Shewan Tomes & Co.
GENERAL AGENTS

for

HONG KONG, CANTON
& MACAO

Hongkong, January 27, 1908.

PREMIUM BONDS

We are the largest Dealers in the world in these attractive securities.
WHAT ARE THESE BONDS?

They are high-class and absolutely safe securities, payable to bearer, issued by the
various Governments and Municipalities of Europe; they are redeemable at periodical
drawings, either with Cash Premiums varying from £40 to £40,000, or, at the very
least, at their full nominal value.

EASY PAYMENTS.
We sell these Bonds simply or in combinations of the most advantageous ones,
payable by convenient Monthly Instalments ranging from 12s. to £20.
Write for Handbook, sent post-free.
MELVILLE, GLEN & Co., Bankers, 2, Rue de la Bourse, PARIS (France).

Intimations.

MITSU BISHI COSHI KWAISHA
(MITSU BISHI CO.)
COAL DEPARTMENT.

SOLE PROPRIETORS OF TAKA-
SIMA, OCHI, MUTABE, HOJO,
NAMAZUTA, SAYO, SHINNEW
and KAMİYAMADA Collieries.

SOLE AGENTS FOR KISHIDAKE, MI
YAO, and KIGIO-KOMATSU Coals.

HEAD OFFICE: TOKYO.

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TEL. ADDRESS for above: IWASAKI.

Codes:—AI, ABO 5th Ed., Western Union.

AGENCIES:—

YOKOHAMA: M. Asada, Esq.

CHINESE: Messrs Gearing &
Co.

MANILA: Messrs Macdonald &
Co.

For particulars, apply to

H. OISHI,

Manager,
No. 2, PRINCE STREET,
HONGKONG.

Hongkong, January 9, 1908. 818

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LD.

NOTICE.

THE THIRTY-SECOND ORDINARY

ANNUAL MEETING of the Share-

holders of the above Company will be held

at the Office of the General Agents, "Ped-

dar's Street, on THURSDAY, the 24th

March, at 11 A.M., for the purpose of

receiving the Report and Statement of

Accounts for the year ending 31st Decem-

ber, 1909.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Com-

pany will be CLOSED from the 11th to

24th March, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.,

General Agents.

Hongkong, March 5, 1910. 302

LUZON SUGAR REFINING CO., LD.

NOTICE.

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY

ANNUAL MEETING of the Share-

holders of the above Company will be held

at the Office of the General Agents, "Ped-

dar's Street, on THURSDAY, the 24th

March, at 11 A.M., for the purpose of

receiving the Report and Statement of

Accounts for the year ending 31st Decem-

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The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Com-

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24th March, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.,

General Agents.

Hongkong, March 5, 1910. 301

SARAWAK GOVERNMENT

COLLIERIES.

BROOKETON

(N.W. COAST BORNEO).

BEING appointed AGENTS for the

above Collieries, we beg to State that

they are now in a position to supply their

NEW DEEP SEAM COALS at LABUAN

or BROOKETON at reduced rates.

Brooketon Harbour free of all Wharf

and Harbour Dues. Large Stocks at

either of the above ports always on hand.

Good anchorage. Pilot sent to meet

steamers. Safe mooring and quick

despatch.

For particulars apply to

AAGAARD, THORSEN & Co.,

(Cable Add.: "Over," Hongkong),

or **SARAWAK GOVT. AGENT,**

(Cable Add.: "May," Labuan),

Hongkong, February 14, 1910. 204

PATELL & Co.,

Exporters & Importers

General Merchants

and

Commission Agents.

Hongkong and

Canton.

FAT HING & Co.

HAVE ACCESS OF

FLOWERS, DWARF PLANTS, FERNS,

GOLD FISH, etc.

FOR SALE OR HIRE.

We invite inspection of our Fine Show at

No. 2, WYNDHAM STREET, opposite

CHINA MAIL OFFICE.

Bouquets made up to order.

Hongkong, December 29, 1909. 1814

BOXING TOURNAMENT

AT

BELLE VIEW HOTEL

(Telephone No. 907).

EASTER MONDAY.

A GRAND TOURNAMENT for Amate-

urs, promoted by the Proprietor of the

Belle View Hotel, will take place on

EASTER MONDAY, the 28th inst.,

commencing at 2.30 p.m.

The Tournament is open to all Amate-

urs and Heavyweights in the Colony

and to be contested under Queensbury

Rules.

Entries will be received by the Under-

secretary up to the 24th inst., at 10 p.m.

The Prizes are two handsome Silver Cups

suitably inscribed.

The trophies are on view at the Belle

View Hotel.

MAIN EVENT:

SEAMAN ROBERTS (Perry Officer) SMITH

ELB. R. KEN. (Perry Officer) SMITH

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Intimations.

WHITEAWAY LAIDLAW & Co.
LIMITED.
RELIABLE GOODS

IN
PERFECT CONDITION
AT
LOWEST CASH PRICES
WHY
PAY
MORE?

TEMPUS' WATCH
 Swiss Manufacture
Perfect Time Keeper.
 Price only **\$2.50** each.

THE "WAYLOO"
Pérambulator
 A smart English made Wicker
 Pérambulator enamelled in Green,
 Navy, or Tan and upholstered in
 crockets Leather to Match.
 PRICE
 ONLY **\$19.50**

ART SERGE
Heavy Quality Art Serge
Durable make in Olive, Crimson,
Bronze, Old Gold, Maroon
0 inches wide
PRICE **cts 85** per Yard.
ONLY

ROPE
SOLE
SHOES
AND BOOTS
WHITE CANVAS UPPERS
Shoes Cts. 95 Pair.
Boots \$1.25 Pair.

LITTLE PRINCE'

OUR POPULAR

Go Carts

Strong Wood Go Cart, well polished, Steel Springs, Rubber tyred Wheels.

Price **\$10 50.**

JUST UNPACKED

Small Lot of

SOLA - PITH

PIGSTICKER

HELMETS

PRICE **\$2.95** each.

**A
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HONGKONG.

Hong Kong, February 9, 1910.

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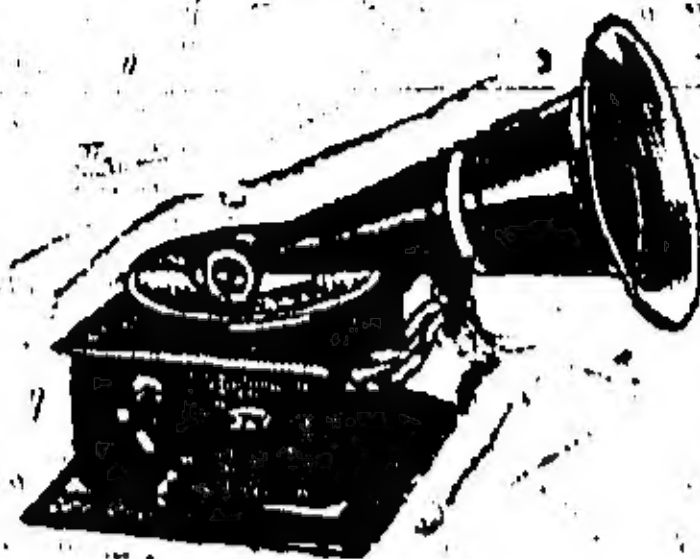
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Hongkong, April 16, 1907.

MEMOS FOR TO-MORROW.

Meetings.

11 a.m.—Meeting of the China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd. at Messrs Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s Office.
11.30 a.m.—Meeting of Lozon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd. at Messrs Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s Office.

General Memoranda.

FRIDAY, March 25—
Exchange Banks Close.

MONDAY, April 4—
12.30 p.m.—Meeting of National Bank of China, Ltd. at Bank Office.

The China Mail.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1910.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

It is generally held that a nation gets the government which it deserves, while the people generally manage to procure the form of amusement they mostly hanker after. Of course in this faulty world, opinions being generally in a state of flux, conditions of government are continually changing, and what is the content and delight of one generation makes no appeal to the one that follows after. In the world of public amusements, and restricting ourselves for the moment entirely to the theatre, it must be frankly admitted that to-day the musical-comedy holds the boards, almost to the exclusion of the drama, pure and simple. A musical comedy, provided it has plenty of pretty girls to sing its songs and go through the evolutions of its dances, can generally fill a house, no matter how insane the story around which the action is built up, while a well-constructed play, thrilling with human interest and really holding the mirror up to nature, has to depend upon the most adventitious aids to secure anything like a hearing. As Mr. Huxley Amory Jones, the well-known playwright, told the O. P. Club the other day, the great majority of playgoers at present want "legs and tomfoolery," and naturally there being so great a demand, the purveyors of current amusement to the world's marketplace provide in lavish abundance what the public asks for.

Mr. Jones, though himself a provider of very different intellectual provender for the "stage" and its supporters, acknowledges that he has never uttered a single word against the present form of popular amusement. By all means, he said, let the dear, good, many-headed public have "legs and tomfoolery" if they so desire; they are excellent things, especially when the dancing is the dancing of MARY ALLEN or of GERTIE, and when the tomfoolery is the wise, grateful, refreshing, and life-giving tomfoolery of RABELAIS. He cheerfully accepts the fact that the drama was always likely to be more or less connected with popular amusement on the British stage. But the very fact that we spoke of then under different

names showed that by their nature they were quite distinct. At present, Mr. Jones further observed in developing his theory as to the possibility of evolving a genuine British type of drama which shall really appeal to theatre-goers, we have no settled type of drama. We have many types and forms and many styles, and most of them seem to be lifeless copies of the Elizabethan drama, of the romantic cloak and sword drama, of the French modern drama, of the Norwegian drama. While the one thing that we did supremely well because we did it spontaneously was the curious entertainment called the musical comedy. WILLIAM MONAGHAN used to say that the only style of really living English architecture was the style of the modern corner public-house. That was what we built naturally, easily, spontaneously, with unconscious inspiration. It was something the same with the drama. While we seemed to unite comedy and drama laboriously, and for the most part in a dull, conscientious way, our real spontaneous delight, both as authors and audiences, seemed to be in those pieces which he had called "legs and tomfoolery." Well, it was useless to build Gothic cathedrals for a population whose architectural demand was for corner public-houses. But he submitted that a nation whose spontaneous impulse and natural standard in building declared itself chiefly in gorgeous public houses could not be said to have much care or love for architecture, or much knowledge of it. And he also submitted that a nation whose spontaneous impulse and natural standard in drama manifested itself in "legs and tomfoolery" could not be said to have any high regard for its drama, any real care or love for it, any knowledge of what a fine art it was, and what a great power and influence it might become. He believed that without great difficulty a very large body of English playgoers could easily be brought to take a real interest in true drama, to love it, and foster it, and to grow more accustomed to seek their pleasure at the theatre in a representation of life, rather than in perversions of words and in meaningless antics.

A good many people are undoubtedly of Mr. Jones' opinion, but unfortunately they are not the class which swell the box-office receipts, so we fail to see when our redemption will be brought about, or the musical comedy supplanted by what the men and women of a bygone school used fondly to call the "legitimate," by plays in fact which have for their end the portrayal of all the varying passions of the human heart and all the chances and changes of our mortal life.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The price of raw opium still continues to advance, yesterday's figure being \$29.0 per chest. It is said that a big syndicate at Shanghai is endeavouring to corner the drug, and that at present there is scarcely any in the Colony.

Subject to audit the directors of the China Traders' Insurance Company, Ltd., will recommend that a final dividend of \$1.50 per share be paid for 1908 making \$4.50 for the year, and for 1909 an interim dividend of \$3.00 per share and a bonus of 20% on contributory premium.

Subject to audit the directors of the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited, will recommend that a final dividend of \$20 per share be paid for account 1908 making \$50 per share for the year, and for 1909 an interim dividend of \$30 per share and a bonus of 20% on contributory premium.

This morning a young European assistant was overpowered to catch the ten minutes to nine o'clock ferry boat at Kowloon. The boat was moving out and he rushed down the steps and made a jump for the lower deck but fell short and was given an unexpected cold bath. There were cries of alarm by the Chinese who witnessed the incident, but the young man soon scrambled on to the steps and waited for the next boat. "A weller and a wiser man."

AN EXCELLENT LINIMENT.

EVERY family and especially those who reside in the country should be provided at all times with a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm. There is no telling when it may be wanted in case of an accident or emergency. It is most excellent in all cases of rheumatism, sprains and bruises. For sale by all chemists and druggists.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The English Mail of the 18th February was delivered in London on the 21st March.

"A wealthy foreigner in Japan in these days is rather rare," says the Japan Gazette.

The first meeting of the Hongkong Gymkhana Club takes place at Happy Valley on April 16.

Sergeant F. A. Biden, of No. 3 Company Volunteers, has been granted leave of absence for 12 months, with effect from the 18th March.

Gunner J. D. Campbell, of No. 1 Co. Hongkong Volunteers, having left the Colony without leave, is struck off the strength of the Corps.

It is proposed to hold a billiard tournament at the Volunteer Headquarters. Members wishing to take part are requested to meet at Headquarters at 8 o'clock this evening.

The silk shipped on board the M.M. s.s. Touraine, which left this port on the 15th February was delivered in Lyons on the 21st March. The delay was caused by the floods in France.

Corporal H. A. Seth, of No. 1 Company Hongkong Volunteers, has been permitted to resign with effect from the 7th January, and Gunner A. H. Young, of the same Co. with effect from the 8th March.

The final shoot for the "Russell" and "Secretary's" Volunteer cups will take place at King's Park Range at 3.30 a.m. on the 27th instant. There is no entrance fee and the handicaps will be the same as at the last shoot.

"If we hated war less," says the Spectator, "we might perhaps acquiesce in the policy of risking it. As it is, we ask, not for just enough, but for unquestionable supremacy at sea, and ask it in the name of peace."

The sword for the use of His Imperial Majesty the Chinese Emperor, as the Commander-in-Chief of the Empire, are being forged in the Arsenal of the Ministry of War in Peking. The sword is to be one foot six inches in length.

Very few entries have been received as yet for the Volunteer side meeting on Easter Monday. Members are requested to forward their entries as soon as possible. Entries close at noon on Thursday, March 24th, and members who send in their entries after that date will have to shoot from scratch.

The Interport Association football match between Kobe and Yokohama, played at Kobe on March 11, ended in a draw, each side scoring a goal. The general opinion seemed to be that Kobe was the better team. A high north-westerly gale blew all the time.

Mr. Denman Fuller will give his concluding organ recital of the present series at St. John's Cathedral on April 5, at 5.30 p.m. As in previous years the programme will be made up of pieces played by request and Mr. Fuller will be pleased to receive the titles of any pieces, Hongkong classical music lovers may wish to hear played.

In order to supply pure drinking water throughout the provinces in the Philippines, a division of artesian wells has been formed, by the Bureau of Public Works, and the bureau has notified all the provincial governments that it would bear two-thirds of the expense of supplying them with wells if they would supply the other third.

A London telegram, dated March 18, says that great disgust and indignation over the Government's methods are being expressed in the City and in Unionist and Radical political circles. The Unionist Chief Whip forecasts another election within three months and the return of the Unionists united as a party to promote sound finance, and social and tariff reform while giving effect to a demarcation to bring about a strong Second Chamber.

There is an interesting statement in the statistics lately published in an Italian paper concerning the growth of modern languages. According to the figures given, the English language, which a century ago was spoken by twenty million individuals, is now the means by which no less than a hundred millions give expression to their views on things. French, on the other hand, spread less than any of the chief European languages, for where it was used by thirty-four million men at the beginning of the nineteenth century, it is now spoken by forty-six million. Seventy million individuals speak German to-day, against thirty-six a hundred years ago; sixty-nine millions Russian, against thirty millions; thirty-two millions Italian, against eighteen millions; and forty-four millions Spanish, against thirty millions. It would be interesting to know, says a London paper, to what percentage in the various countries the introduction of Esperanto has, within the last twenty years, influenced the growth of the older tongues.

A REMEDY WHICH NEVER FAILS.

DARRHENA should be used without loss of time and by a medicine which like Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy not only cures promptly but produces no unpleasant after effects. It never fails and is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by all chemists and druggists.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

Tarif differences are developing between the United States and Canada and it is predicted that a tariff war will result.

Archbishop Agius, papal delegate to the Philippines, has again been received in audience by Pope Pius for a discussion of the island church questions.

A petition asking for the independence of the Philippines, signed by one hundred prominent citizens, was presented to the Senate at Washington by Senator Crane of Massachusetts.

The Government of France has accepted officially the invitation transmitted by the German ambassador, Prince Radolin, to participate in the International Hygiene Exhibition at Dresden in 1911.

A new canal on Mars, a thousand miles in length, has been discovered by Prof. Percival Lowell, of the Flagstaff Observatory in Arizona. This evidence, according to the astronomer, that the planet is inhabited.

Official exports of wheat and flour, as wheat, from the United States during January were 4,960,000 bushels, which compared with 7,600,000 bushels in January of 1909. Exports for seven months beginning on July 1 were 35,300,000 bushels as compared with 30,800,000 bushels a year before.

The question is whether the Canadian navy shall be British or British. At Ottawa the Ministers want to make it the former, and to keep it apart from the Empire. But the masses of the people favor the British idea, and very properly so. If the Empire is free from danger Canada has nothing to fear.

It is stated that the Kaiser and the Ministry of War are convinced that aeroplanes will be importantly useful in war. Consequently, a corps of experts will be formed, who will be distributed in all sections of the army. It is expected to be the intention to eventually attach a flying corps to every regiment.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

Mr. Rufus Isaacs, M.P., on becoming Solicitor-General, has been knighted.

The new President of the Divorce Court, Sir Samuel Evans, K.C., has been appointed to the Privy Council.

Among the passengers homeward by the P. and O. Sunda are Mrs. J. V. C. Bonnar and family; Mrs. O. H. Hickling, and Mrs. Pearce.

Mr. Duncan Clark, of Messrs Lane, Crawford and Co., and Mrs. Clark will leave the Colony to-day for a well earned holiday at home.

Dr. Votensch, German Consul for Hongkong, left for home to-day, with his wife, by the s.s. Princess Alice. A large crowd of friends saw them off.

Mr. Justice Sercombe, who during residence in Hongkong took no inconsiderable part in cricketing affairs, leaves Singapore on Friday for England.

It is understood that Mr. E. Harris, late second officer of the Kwong Sang, proceeds to Tientsin to join the office staff of Messrs Jardine, Matheson and Co., at that port.

An Englishman London cable says that the next Viceroy of India will probably be either Lord Kitchener or Lord Hardinge, late Ambassador at St. Petersburg, who is now permanent Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

H. R. H. Prince Bija, a younger brother of the King of Siam, has just died at Bangkok, aged 23. He was at once time Minister of Justice, then a judge of the Dika Court, but latterly has been too ill to discharge any official functions. He used to run a good many ponies at the Bangkok race meetings and his death is deplored by Siamese and foreigners alike.

The death occurred at Shanghai last week of Staff Surgeon A. F. Fraser, of H. M. S. Plover, and the news was received with profound regret by the many friends that he has made during his short service on this station. Deceased had been ill for some weeks, and although recently little hope had been entertained of his recovery, yet it was sincerely hoped that he would pull through his severe illness.

An indignant father has been caused in court circles on his becoming known that Grand Duke Michael, the Czar's only brother, who until the little Czarowich was born, was heir to the throne, has secretly married a lady, who during her adventurous career has been divorced three times. The Grand Duke's attachment for her has been known for some time and they have been frequently seen together in fashionable restaurants and resorts in Moscow, but a morganatic alliance was not suspected by the public although it was apparently known by the Imperial family. The Czar, is reported to be very angry over the affair and Mr. Dowager, who lately returned from Copenhagen, refused to see Michael when she arrived. The Grand Duke is now commanding a cavalry regiment in Ost.

SOMALILAND.

BRITAIN'S BENEFICENT POLICY.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)
London, March 22.

A Bluebook relating to Somaliland shows that the Government has decided to evacuate the interior.

The withdrawal will begin forthwith. Colonel Sir W. H. Manning has already armed the friendly tribes to enable them to defend themselves against the Mullahs.

THE VETO OF THE LORDS.

GOVERNMENT'S THREE RESOLUTIONS.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)
London, March 22.

The veto resolutions have been laid on the table of the House.

The first declares that it is expedient that the House of Lords should be disabled by law from rejecting or amending Money Bills, the Speaker to decide, whether there has been any "tacking."

The second resolution provides that Bills other than Money Bills, if passed in three successive sessions by the House of Commons, shall become law without the consent of the House of Lords on the Royal assent being given.

The third resolution limits the duration of Parliament to five years.

HOSTS OF AMENDMENTS.

IRISH CO-OPERATION ASSURED.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)
London, March 23.

The Government's resolutions are now the absorbing topic in political circles.

Hosts of amendments have already been announced.

The Liberals are now confident of the co-operation of the Irish party.

AWFUL DISASTER IN AMERICA.

TRAIN TELESOPED.

A Big Death Roll.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)
London, March 23.

A Chicago message states that a train on the Rock Island railway, while traversing a deep cutting, became derailed.

A smoking compartment and the "sleeper" were telescoped, and 45 persons were killed and 31 injured.

MACAO DELIMITATION.

PRINCE REGENT URGES SETTLEMENT.

(Wah Tat Yat Po's Service.)
Peking, March 22.

The Prince Regent has personally directed the Ministers of the Board of Foreign Affairs to the effect that the Macao delimitation question must be settled as soon as possible.

NANKING EXHIBITION.

(Wah Tat Yat Po's Service.)
Peking, March 22.

The opening of the Nanking Exhibition has been postponed until the 7th of June.

ENGLISH ALE & STOUT

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The Beer is kept Fresh and Sound in these Patent Earthenware Jars for about Ten Days.

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CHINESE TOURISTS FOR JAPAN.

(Independent News Agency's Service to the China Mail.)
Tokyo, March 23.

The Chinese tourist party for Japan, which has been arranged by the newspaper, Seiketsu will leave Durian on the 10th of April and arrive at Kobe on the 13th.

WRECK OF THE S.S. TAISHAN.

A Total Loss.

Last night Messrs Bradley and Company received a telegraphic message from Swatow to the effect that the Sian Lin steamship Taishan, of which they are owners, had foundered on the Sul rocks, which constitute a part of the Lamook Islands. This information was confirmed this morning by a further wire in which it was stated that the steamer was a total wreck, her back being broken, and that the master (Capt. Laing) and the crew had abandoned her and had arrived at Swatow, some 16 miles from where the disaster had occurred.

The Taishan at the time of the regrettable misfortune was making from Hongkong to Swatow with a full cargo of coal. She passed Hongkong on Monday morning and signalled "All well," and must have met her doom probably during the early hours of Tuesday morning. Although full details are not yet to hand it is assumed that the steamer ran into thick foggy weather and struck the submerged rocks before bearings could be taken. In such heavy weather as has of late been prevailing it is nothing short of miraculous that so few disasters are recorded, and that something of the kind indicated happened seems morally certain for Capt. Laing is reported to be one of the best skippers on the China coast.

It is good news to know that the officers and members of the crew were able to save themselves from a watery grave. They are leaving Swatow for Hongkong by the Douglas boat "Hatching," which leaves to-day and is due here to-morrow morning. Although there seems no hope of saving the wrecked vessel, the salvage steamer "Protector" left Hongkong this morning for the scene of the wreck in order to ascertain if it is possible to save any of the cargo, which, as well as the steamer herself, is, we understand, fully covered by insurance.

The "Taishan," whose registered tonnage is 1,905, was built at Liverpool in 1888 by Messrs J. Jones and Son. She is classed 100 A1 at Lloyd's, while her port of registry is London.

HANDMAID OPERA COMPANY.

Playgoers present at the Theatre Royal on Tuesday evening repeated the unanimous verdict given the previous evening that "Our Miss Gibbs" is one of the very best musical comedies ever staged in Hongkong. The company again played to a crowded house and enthusiastic applause was the order of the evening. Though the opera opens somewhat tamely it progresses rapidly to mirth-provoking situations while catchy songs and dainty dancing abound.

Miss Connie Leon and Mr. Harry Cole were again irresistible as principals but the other artists were not one whit behind them and all deserve hearty recognition.

The company intend to play for three nights on their return from Manila and it is hoped they will then re-stage "Our Miss Gibbs" for the benefit of those who have not had the opportunity of making the acquaintance of the ladies from Yorkshire.

To-night "A Waltz Dream" will be put on the boards and to-morrow night "The Merry Widow" will be staged.

THE SAME OLD STORY.

THE old, old story, told times without number, and repeated over and over again for the last 57 years, but it is always health. There is nothing in the world that cures coughs and colds as quickly as Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. For sale by all chemists and druggists.

SPORTING.

The Calendar.

Saturday, March 26.
Football.—H.K. Regatta, Fenwick's Recreation, Bay View, commencing at 1 p.m.
Football.—Replayed Shield final, Bunsen, Fenwick's Recreation, commencing at 4.30 p.m.
Monday, March 28.
Athletics.—H.K. Recreation Club Sports, Fenwick's Recreation, commencing at 10 a.m.
Boxing.—A match boxing tournament at Belle View Stadium, commencing 2.30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 30.
Athletics.—Buffs Regimental Sports meeting.
Saturday, April 2.
Yachting.—Royal H.K. Yacht Club Handicap and One Design Class racing, 2.30 and 3.40 p.m.; distance 10 miles.
Athletics.—H.K. Regatta, Fenwick's Recreation, commencing at 10 a.m.
Football.—Army & Civilian, Hong Kong Football Club ground, commencing at 2.30 p.m.
Boxing.—A match at the V.R.C. ground.
Wednesday, April 6.
Athletics.—R.G.A. sports, U.S.R. ground.
Saturday, April 16.
Racing.—Gyrfalcons Club's 1st meeting; Racecourse.
Sunday, April 17.
Yachting.—Royal H.K. Yacht Club Handicap and One Design Class racing, 11.30 and 11.40 a.m.; distance, 15½ miles.

English League Football.

First Division.

Notes County did not occupy first place on the League table long, going under unexpectedly to Bristol City on February 28 by two goals to nil. The performance of the south-westerns was all the more remarkable, by the fact that they were the visiting team, and the result is likely to strike terror to the hearts of several aspirants for League honours. Aston Villa at home to Manchester United were more than conquerors, defeating the United by seven goals to one. The win places Aston Villa in a comfortable position as League leaders with 36 points for 25 matches. Notes County and Liverpool being in attendance with 35 points for 23 matches and, 34 points for 26 matches respectively. The desperate struggle for advancement from the bottom of this League table is now being watched with even more interest than the positions of the leaders. Of the six teams who at present look as if they are likely to have to stand down, the position of Bolton Wanderers is the least enviable with 18 points for 23 matches. Middlesbrough are at present at the bottom with 17 points for 22 matches, but they seem to have turned the corner as they defeated the Spurs by the odd goal of seven. Blackburn Rovers seem to have finished their all conquering career and fill an easy place in the "Pioneers" at 3rd and 4th. Bolton Wanderers, 2, Notts Forest 2, Preston N.E. 2, Burnley 1, Sheffield United 3, Everton 0, Liverpool 1, Bradford City 0.

Second Division.

Although Derby County still top the League table, the advantage is only a paper one as Manchester City have a like number of points for one match less played. The visit of the County to Leicester was disastrous on for them as the home side inflicted a six to nil defeat. The surprise of the day was supplied by Grimsby Town, who sent Glossop back home with a four-all defeat. The reverse meant a lot to Glossop as had they secured a win they would have gone to first place on the League table. The other results were:—Bradford 3, Fulham 0; Birmingham 3, Gainsborough 0; Oldham 5, Leeds 3; Hull City 3, Lincoln 1; Burnley 2, Barnsley 0; Clapton 0, Blackpool 1. Manchester City 3, Stockport 1.

Southern League.

The most remarkable performance of the afternoon in this Division was that of Crystal Palace, who beat the Railwaymen by two goals to one. This is the third success in four matches for the Crystal Palace, and although they are still second from the bottom of the table with 20 points for 29 matches, there are other teams who need them that a few more wins will give them a respectable position. Reading gave a good account of themselves at Epsom, merely losing by the odd goal of one. Brighton and Hove defeated Plymouth Argyle by one goal to nil and Queens Park Rangers were one goal too good for Brentford, so that these two winners still hold the premier position in the Southern League. The advantage is with the Rangers with 40 points for 27 games as against 40 points for 29 games by Brighton. West Ham and Leyton divided points without either side scoring and Brentford and Southend shared two points and two goals. Norwich City and Watford, near neighbours in the competition, had a battle royal at Norwich and had to share two points and four goals so that Norwich still lead. The other matches resulted as follows:—Northampton 3, Exeter City 2; Brentford 3, Coventry 1; Crystal Palace 2, Southampton 0.

League International.

The annual fixture between England and Scotland took place at the Blackburn on the afternoon of February 26th. The game had a most sensational opening, Quinn scoring for the visitors and Parkinson replying almost immediately for the home team. The play in the first half was in favour of the English team, but they failed to gain the net. The Scotchmen showed to more advantage in the second moiety and had slightly the better of exchanges towards the finish. Taking full advantage of all opportunities, the visitors literally secured the lead and maintained it until the whistle sounded for time with the scores:—Scotland 3, England 2.

Polo.

At Causway Bay this evening the first quarterly polo tournament in connection with the Hong Kong Polo Club, takes place. The Navy will meet the R.A. representatives when the teams will be as follows:—Navy:—Commanders Lyon, Capt. Fitzherbert, Capt. Farquhar, Capt. Darley. R.A.:—Capt. Loring, Capt. Brerley, Capt. Finch, Capt. Crawford, and Lt. Thicknesse. Navy:—Reserve, Capt. Trevelyan.

Royal Hongkong Golf Club.

The Captain's Cup was played for at the Happy Valley from 19th to 21st March with the following results:—

	Green.	Blue.	Red.
E. J. Grist	81	81	81
H. S. Sweeting	82	82	82
Commander Penfold	83	83	83
Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson	84	84	84
S. S. Logan	85	85	85
G. M. Dalgety	86	86	86
Staff Paymaster Wilson	87	87	87

* Winner of Cup. 41 entries.

Pool.

	Green.	Blue.	Red.
A. P. Dashwood	93	93	93
J. Clark	73	73	73
A. W. Walkinshaw	78	78	78
H. S. Sweeting	83	83	83
Commander Penfold	84	84	84
Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson	85	85	85
S. S. Logan	86	86	86

* Winner of Pool. 36 entries.

SCOTTISH LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

LORD CURZON AND OTHER GLASGOW STUDENTS.

Edinburgh, March 1.

Glasgow students and their Lord Curzon are at present, indifferent friends, Lord Curzon having wounded the self-esteem of the undergraduates of Glasgow by two posthumous letters of his. A fortnight ago, a mass meeting of the students was held, at which a motion was carried unanimously expressing "strong disapproval of the Lord Curzon in placing political engagements before his duty to the University." Lord Curzon then wrote a letter explaining his position and disclaiming any intention of discourtesy. He said, "In the early part of February I was suddenly called upon to undertake some political work of importance which I could not either decline or postpone (I am sorry it was political, but these are the drawbacks of public life), and which was certain to occupy me fully in the interval before the opening of Parliament." And he concluded by venturing to hope that the students would acquit him of "the charge of discourtesy, and reconsider the censure which they have passed." This communication from Lord Curzon was considered by a second mass meeting of students; and, in spite of the advice of most of the seniors, the resolution passed at the previous meeting was approved of by 533 to 306 votes, the total number of students is 2200. At the start of the struggle, the students received a good deal of public sympathy; but after the very complete explanation and apology by Lord Curzon, it was thought that the matter should be allowed to drop. It is an open secret that "the political work of importance" upon which Lord Curzon is engaged is a scheme for the reform of the House of Lords, and it is believed with good reason that the "excitable" among the students are being worked upon by the Radicals for the purpose of a political demonstration. A placard of the students is to be taken; but the probability is that Lord Curzon will resign. If that takes place, we shall have another Rectorial election conducted with great bitterness; for the students are strongly divided into two fighting camps.

THE CHAPEL OF THE THISTLE.

Drawings and models of the interior of the Chapel of the Thistle, at present being built at the south-east corner of St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, have been submitted to the King, and approved by him. H. M. expressed himself as particularly pleased to learn that the material used for the floor was green Ailsa Craig granite and Iona marble. All the work in the Chapel is being executed by Scottish craftsmen and workmen, with one exception, the handsome stained glass windows above the stalls of the choir, which are to be executed by Mr. Louis Davis. It is hoped that the Chapel will be completed by St. Andrew's Day of this year.

WORLD MISSIONARY CONFERENCE.

In June there will assemble in Edinburgh the most remarkable gathering in the Christian world since the days of the Reformation. At present, meetings are being held all over the country in preparation for a great Conference, the World Missionary Conference, which, unlike other assemblies, has broken down barriers, and will gather for mutual counsel all the Churches of the Reformation by whatever name they may be called. Thus it comes that Bishop Gore, of Birmingham, is chairman of one of the Commissions; and although the Bishop holds uncompromising views regarding what constitutes the ministry, yet he will at the Conference take counsel with Episcopate and Congregationalists regarding missionary enterprise. Hitherto the efforts of the Churches have been spasmodic, lacking co-ordination, without unity of plan. The purpose of the Conference is to gather the missionary work of the Churches into unity, to adapt the forces at the disposal of Christianity to the work it has to do, divide the field so that no part be left unoccupied, and decide as to the best methods of carrying on the campaign.

LORD ROSEBURY ON THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM.

"We have in this country," says Lord Rosebery, "a two-party system, which is easily expanded to four or five at need; I count three parties in Ireland, three in Scotland, and three in England; I don't think there is so much variety in Wales." Lord Rosebery has forgotten another party, himself. Or perhaps he is, at one time or another, an adherent of all parties. But he should not leave himself out, though only an individual. And he might recall the expression of his favourite Napoleon, "How many do I count for?"

REVIEWS.

The Human Condition, a Romance of Old Peking, by E. L. PUTNAM WEALE, London, Messrs. Macmillan and Co.

Mr. Putnam Weale has undoubtedly a capital story to tell, but he chokes off the reader from his latest book by a display of too great prolixity. With his thorough knowledge of all the dirty back-stair work which has been going on in Peking since the termination of the China-Japanese war of 1894, in the matter of railway and mining concessions, political jobbery and diplomatic chicanery, he could not but have a moving story to relate; and had he used about half the number of words in the telling of it he would undoubtedly have achieved a great success. His wordiness has been his stumbling block. The intimate knowledge displayed by Mr. Putnam Weale of the ever-changing games played in Peking by the horde of concession-hunters that settled down in the capital of China like a swarm of locusts after the seizure of Port Arthur by Russia and Kiaschow by Germany gives one a rather poor opinion of the diplomatic ability displayed by the British Foreign Office in its dealing with China during recent years. Had the hero of this novel, Mr. Peter Horn, with his scheme of railway development for the Chinese empire, been properly backed up—even granting that the novelist has a free hand at describing a given situation than has a diplomatist—there is little doubt that England would not have lost the commanding position in the Middle Kingdom which once was hers. Peter Horn had a thorough grasp of the possibilities and potentialities of the situation, but he was out-witted and out-manoeuvred and so in the end has to suffer the mortification of losing the valuable concession which, after months of scheming and laborious work, first in London, then in Peking, was almost within his reach. Phyllis May, the heroine, is a very delightful creation and in her bright company one almost forgives the lengthiness of the book.

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Master John.

Wine in Cup.

Rebirth.

A Winter Comedy.

Unaccounted Cost.

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CHEMISTS.

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HONGKONG.

ITEMS AT THE COURTS.

The Magistrate was unusually quiet this

morning, very few cases having to be dealt

with by their Worships.

A native who believes in a more equal

distribution of wealth than at present

obtains was sentenced to six weeks' hard

labour. He was passing a money-changer

without a single cash in his pocket when

the night of so much money proved too

much for him. He made a dash and

grabbed some

